

1 2006 revenue, 163.4 billion with a B. Trying to
2 gain what? More money?

3 Someone said earlier tonight, super
4 rich. I think when you are super rich you just
5 want to control everything about the reality that
6 people in the United States perceive through
7 their ears and eyes. That really, really scares
8 me.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

11 Tom Nesbitt. Carl Guthe.

12 MR. GUTHE: Many eloquent words here
13 tonight. My name is Carl Guthe. I am fortunate
14 enough to own a home in West Seattle, which is a
15 long walk from here. The buses have stopped
16 running. Tonight I was going out -- I went out
17 to dinner and decided to go to a movie. I looked
18 -- I -- Rather than drive by the theater I
19 bought a newspaper to try and find out what was
20 showing at the Admiral Twin Theater, which is my
21 local theater.

22 They didn't have -- It wasn't listed

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1 in there. And I looked three times, forward and
2 back, forward again. Then I saw that it was --
3 There was a little thing that said, "If you want
4 to fill your theater" -- This is the Seattle
5 Times. "If you want to fill your theater, place
6 an advertisement here." And they were not listed
7 because they had not placed an ad. So make that
8 -- I'm here because of that. I turned to the
9 opinion pages, and that's when I found about this
10 hearing. So I jumped on a bus and came down.

11 I'm not with any organization, but in
12 a way I represent probably thousands of
13 Seattlites, probably millions of Americans across
14 the country in that I'm a media consumer and am
15 discouraged at the lack of diversity. It seems
16 to me there is a growing skepticism in this
17 country and it's -- I think it's bad for America,
18 what's being proposed here. And that's not good
19 for my country or yours.

20 Thank you very much. I hope --

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 MR. GUTHE: I hope it's more than a

1 hearing. I hope you listen.

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Bill Noble, Jodi
3 Whitehead, Jerome Chroman.

4 MR. CHROMAN: Good evening. I'm
5 Jerome Chroman. I'm a grandfather, just turned
6 69, getting a little too old for this kind of
7 thing. But I'll still stick with it until this
8 community that I'm part of, you know, wins the
9 day and preserves our democracy. And I am so
10 happy to see so many young people come out and
11 speak up for justice so articulately. So here is
12 my prepared rap.

13 Once again you guys have ruined a
14 perfectly good Friday in Seattle by trying to
15 push through something we've already told you we
16 don't want, the further consolidation of the
17 media. Instead of being home tonight watching
18 Bill Moyer's Journal on PBS, something I would
19 encourage all of you Commissioners to do, we have
20 to come out once again to tell you we like
21 diversity of opinion, we like local ownership, we
22 like lots of voices enriching the dialogue that's

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1 so crucial to democracy.

2 What we don't like are media giants
3 owned by huge corporations dominating the whole
4 spectrum of media. What we don't like are far
5 away voices telling us what we should be
6 thinking and what we should be doing, i.e., being
7 good little consumers enabling the marketers to
8 continue raking in the profits so they can
9 continue controlling our politics and our
10 culture.

11 Please listen this time and don't try
12 to push through an agenda for big media.

13 Please for once in this ongoing
14 struggle between David and Goliath, be on David's
15 side and support localism. Remember bigger is
16 not always better. And I will end with the
17 recommendation of a book to read over the
18 holidays. E. F. Schumacher, the British
19 economist's book, Small is Beautiful.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Claire Massart.

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1 Let me read the rest of the names here. Give me
2 one moment. The final list of people if you
3 would come forward: Shaine Floyd, Jennifer
4 Zwick, Amanda Valentine, Sophia Purekal, Jessie
5 English, Taylor Sims, Abraham Flaxman, Karen
6 Toering.

7 Claire Massart please.

8 MS. MASSART: Good evening everybody.
9 I come from France. A country with democratic
10 ideals, high. And therefore, from Europe. We
11 cherish debate and art. We support art
12 financially, too.

13 I've lived in the U.S. for 23 years
14 now. A country that has also high democratic
15 ideals, probably the best constitution in the
16 world with the help of our country. On paper
17 yes, it's beautiful. But in practice, it's
18 horrifying. I've watched the disintegration of
19 civil rights, of free speech, and am particularly
20 concerned about being internalized censorship in
21 this country.

22 I am a child of democracy. I love to

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1 be well informed about the world and the world is
2 far more than the U.S.

3 The power of choice is crucial in
4 democracy and it cannot be done without thorough
5 diverse of information. I read and listen to
6 French, German, and British English news. As for
7 the U.S. news, I've given up practically on all
8 newspapers. All I focus on is community radio
9 and documentaries, film. For the rest of it
10 makes me sick to my stomach every time I start.
11 I've tried many times.

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
13 much.

14 MS. MASSART: Oh, no.

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you for your
16 comments.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Shaina Floyd,
19 Jennifer Zwich, Amanda Valentine.

20 MS. VALENTINE: Commissioner, I want
21 to thank you for being here. I know you must be
22 really tired because I'm really tired.

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1 AUDIENCE: Louder.

2 MS. VALENTINE: I'll try. Is that
3 better?

4 I want to thank you for being here.
5 I know you must be very tired because I am as
6 well. I'm going to keep this short.

7 My name is Amanda Valentine. I am a
8 graduate student in the communications department
9 at the University of Washington. And I oppose
10 increased media consolidation. I think you
11 should too. But that is not what I am going to
12 talk about.

13 I want to talk about the process of
14 these hearings, especially the one here in
15 Seattle. I know a lot of people have talked
16 about the process for this hearing. And I am a
17 political organizer by trade. I know what it
18 takes to put on an event that the community can
19 be involved in. And I think it is appalling that
20 this event was held, that this very important
21 event was put together in five days. I think
22 it's disrespectful to this community.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. VALENTINE: And I also think it's
3 disrespectful to the deliberative process of
4 democracy. And I think it is unacceptable.

5 And this isn't the first time it's
6 happened. In Los Angeles a year ago there was
7 very short public notice about the location, the
8 venue of the event. I think it was only four
9 day's notice that the public got about where the
10 hearing was going to be held.

11 The same in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
12 a week's notice. And in Washington, D.C. last
13 week, a week's notice. It is not fair. And it
14 doesn't give people a chance. I mean, there were
15 1,100 people in this room tonight. People
16 prioritize this issue. They care about it. They
17 change their plans so they could come out and
18 talk to you. And I think it's because they know
19 that the policies you're considering are going to
20 shape not only our media, but our entire
21 democracy and our culture for generations to
22 come.

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1 They're decisions, you know, they're
2 heavy decisions. You have heavy work. They're
3 decisions that shouldn't be made lightly. And
4 the, you know, the deliberation here, I just, I
5 really hope, Chairman Martin, that you take
6 these --

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 MS. VALENTINE: -- hearings as
9 seriously as do the people in this room.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Thank
12 you very much. Sophia Purekal. Sophia.

13 MS. PUREKAL: Good evening,
14 Commissioners. I thank you for staying so late.
15 My name is Sophia Purekal. And I'm a medical
16 student here at Seattle, the University of
17 Washington. My classmates and I who are first
18 year medical students have committed ourselves to
19 spending the next four years in study, and at
20 least the four years after that working at least
21 80 hours a week so that we will be effective at
22 saving lives and at ameliorating suffering.

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1 Yet it is clear to me and to a number
2 of my colleague medical students and mentor
3 physicians that one of the greatest causes of
4 suffering in this world is the United States and
5 its unilateral and militaristic campaigns. I
6 know I don't need to tell you what a tremendous
7 catastrophe this war is, how we as Americans need
8 to be ashamed of how we appear in the eyes of the
9 world these days, how many American families have
10 been devastated, and how many hundreds of
11 thousands of innocent people have perished
12 because of our government's actions.

13 There has been no greater event in
14 which the mainstream corporate media has failed
15 the American people than the way it has propelled
16 the progression towards the invasion of Iraq, and
17 the results have been something I didn't use to
18 think was possible of the United States. So I am
19 here to say that I blame the mainstream media
20 almost as much as I blame George W. Bush himself.

21 And if we, as Americans, as citizens
22 of one of the most powerful nations on earth are

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1 going to step up to our duty to preserve and
2 protect those who have less power than us, then
3 we need to have a more intelligent and more
4 patriotic media that is devoted to the people and
5 to their welfare and committed to that mandate of
6 preserving and protecting.

7 So for this reason, I ask you, the
8 Commissioners, to maintain a conscience about
9 your actions and maintain a thought of your power
10 and its ramifications to the entire world.

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

12 Jessie English.

13 MS. ENGLISH: Hi. My name is Jessie
14 English. And when I was 16 years old I was
15 living the life of any other 16-year old. I had
16 a job at a local Fox News Station. And I hung
17 out a lot at coffee shops. One day I was
18 wondering around my favorite coffee shop, and I
19 found an Irish newspaper. I picked it up and
20 gave it a read, and I was shocked. There were
21 wars going on around the world for years that I
22 had never heard of.

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1 Now from that day on, even though I
2 worked at a news station, I had go to four
3 newspapers to get information about the world we
4 live in. Since then I have been so disgusted
5 with our mainstream media that I have given up on
6 it completely. I refuse to watch it or to have
7 it at my house. I'm supposed to be America's
8 future. How am I to participate responsibly
9 without trusting where my information comes from.

10 When our media decides to cover
11 stories that are made glamorous rather than
12 important world issues, our public suffers. We
13 need news that covers local, national, and
14 international news. We need to stop media
15 consolidation. Our public deserves it, to hear
16 quality news about the world that we live in.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 Taylor Sims.

20 MS. SIMS: Yeah, that's right, the
21 public deserves it. That's right.

22 How are you guys?

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1 Thanks for staying out.

2 I really didn't have anything planned
3 to say. I figured I'd just come up here and wing
4 it and speak from the heart, you know. So
5 basically what I want to say is look at public
6 television, the public access channel we have.
7 It's so amazing. It's the best stuff you could
8 ever watch. Okay it just makes you feel happy,
9 okay. We're showing joy. It's awesome, unlike
10 being held under by fear and hate that you're
11 preaching and all this horrible stuff. But
12 basically, yeah, just compare the two, and it's
13 pretty much an obvious choice. And yeah,
14 basically we should respect each other a little
15 bit more than we are now.

16 So thank you. Good bye.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Abraham Flaxman.
19 Karen Toering.

20 MS. TOERING: I think I'm last person,
21 right? I was the first person here, so this is
22 totally righteous. So my name is Karen Toering,

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1 and I stand before you as a testifier No. 282, a
2 member of 206 Zulu Nation, co-director of Reclaim
3 the Media, a mother, and black woman that would
4 some day like to own my own television station.

5 And, Chairman Martin, a little while
6 ago you said that people like I should lease air
7 time if we wanted to have a radio station or a
8 television station. I'm not a share cropper.
9 That doesn't work for me.

10 So as a mother, I tell my children
11 that, honey, before you eat your dessert, you got
12 to eat all your vegetables and all your dinner,
13 and before you go out and play, you got to do
14 your homework.

15 And the FCC has some work they have
16 not finished in relation to ownership by people
17 that look like me, minorities, and women. And I
18 think that before you take a single step towards
19 loosening the controls on media ownership, then I
20 have to tell you like I tell my children, you've
21 got to go do your homework before you can go
22 outside and play.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. TOERING: So I really appreciate
3 the fact that you all came to Seattle. You've
4 heard from Seattle. I think we represent what
5 the public thinks about what you're about to go
6 back to Washington and do, and I hope that you
7 heard us.

8 And I thank you very much and good
9 night.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

11 Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes
12 the Commission's sixth and final hearing on media
13 ownership. On behalf of the Federal
14 Communication Commission I thank you for your
15 attendance and participation. Thank you.

16 (Whereupon, at 1:05 a.m., Saturday,
17 November 10, 2007, the public hearing was
18 adjourned.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript
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Before: Federal Communication Commission

Date: Friday, November 9, 2007

Place: Seattle, WA

represents the full and complete proceedings of the
aforementioned matter, as reported and reduced to
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Susan Walker

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